



nc news flash

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WATCH FOR THE SIGNS

In a popular Sheryl Crow song, she sings that “Everyday is a winding road/I get a little bit closer/Everyday is a faded sign/I get a little bit closer to feeling fine.” Now that we are over halfway done on *The Road to Your Success*, you have probably seen many signs along the way measuring how far you have come as a future business leader.

Some signs are obvious. They mark awards you have won, projects you have completed, your chapter’s membership growth, and business partnerships that you and your FBLA chapter have secured. These are more obvious because they can be measured to the success you have had in previous years. Other signs, however, are more faded and covered with the dust that our wheels have kicked up as we go forward at full speed! They bare the names of qualities you have picked up along our road—leadership, communication, team building, and etiquette. Although these signs do not seem to stand out, the skills they represent will shine out as the dust begins to settle and you rely on them more.

All of these road signs make a difference on *The Road to Your Success*. The Ace of Base song, *The Sign*, sums it up well—“I saw the sign/It opened up my eyes/I saw the sign.” The more you experience and learn from FBLA, the more you will come to realize how much you are benefiting from our organization.

Good luck to you as you compete for the right to represent your chapter at the State and National Leadership Conferences!

With FBLA spirit,

News from the Road...

Information from your North Central Region Officers

Andrew Riebhoff
Action Council
Iowa FBLA

March to Orlando

Did you know that birth defects are the leading cause of infant mortality, or that everyday, 76 babies die before their first birthday? Did you know that a premature baby would fit on the surface of a dollar bill and that a premature baby is so small that a man’s size wedding ring will fit up the baby’s thigh? Want you know how you can help? The answer: Sponsor a March of Dimes fundraiser.

FBLA has raised the most money for March of Dimes (MoD) of any other youth organization, and is not far behind other leading donors. During its 35 year partnership with the MoD, FBLA has raised over 15 million dollars for this worthwhile organization.

Amber Kamischke
Membership Director
Illinois FBLA

Chrissy Yeast
Action Council Chair
Missouri FBLA

This year, the national officer team along with the National March of Dimes Youth Council, is proud to present "March to Orlando"! This fundraiser will be held nationwide in hopes that FBLA can meet its goal by raising \$500,000.00 during the 2004-2005 FBLA.

The competition began in January and ends in the spring. The feet are sold for \$1.00 each. Ask teachers at your school and see if you can sell them before school, after school, and during lunch. Hang them up around your school halls and in windows so everyone can see what is going on. Check around your community and see if businesses will sell and display the feet too. Make sure to let them know what it is for and where the money goes.

The local chapter that raises the most money proportionally will be awarded the "State Sneaker", which will be awarded at the North Central Region meeting during NLC. Each state's total will then be added up for the Regional competition. The state that raises the most money proportionally in our region will be awarded the "Mini-Golden Foot" trophy. Then the state totals for each region will be added together, and the region raising the most money proportionally will win the Golden Foot trophy. The winners will be recognized at the NLC in Orlando on stage with their regional vice president.

This is a GREAT opportunity for FBLA to get active and help FBLA reach its goal of \$500,000 for the March of Dimes.

More information will e-mailed to all chapters in the next couple weeks. The information will include: footprint templates and more detailed instructions.

Make sure that you send your money into your state adviser!

Tender Loving Care States

As Membership Director for the TLC states in the North Central Region, I have led the membership council in establishing a packet, which will be sent to all of the chapters in Illinois and Ohio, which have gone inactive in the past 10 years. These packets, which will be sent out via e-mail, will include letters to the prospective adviser as well as an FBLA fact sheet, a copy of the NC Newsflash and a Chapter Organization Packet. If you are interesting in receiving copies for you to distribute to local schools in your area, contact me, Amber Kamischke, at klutz0319@yahoo.com for all of the information. We all need to work as a region to increase our membership so make it a chapter goal to recruit one new FBLA or PBL chapter around you each year!

Program Booklets

Last year the North Central Regional Team developed a Program Booklet that highlights many of our FBLA-PBL events and opportunities. The goal was to make this booklet available to FBLA members, potential corporate sponsors, and college business departments. Members would be able to see different things available to them, and both corporate sponsors and college business departments would be able to learn more about the organization and all the time we devote to FBLA.

The North Central Action Council has been researching contact information for over 100 colleges and universities in our region. We are in the process of updating the booklet to include new programs as well. Once this data is collected, we will send an electronic copy of the Program Booklet and a letter explaining FBLA to college admissions officers and business professors. This will help spread our name and image in a positive manner!

The State—Stops

State President's Updates

Mahesh Chandrasekhar
Indiana FBLA State President

Indiana FBLA has been very busy this year. On November 11th, Indiana FBLA chapters attended the NFLC in Chicago. Listening to great speakers, attending innovative workshops, and meeting different members from many states were all part of the agenda.

In their January meeting, the Indiana state officers held their January meeting where members interested in becoming state officers sat in to ask questions and learn state officer requirements. By looking at attendance at this meeting, it looks like state officer campaigning will be very competitive this year.

Indiana FBLA has much left to accomplish this year. March 10-12 will be the Indiana State Leadership Conference. There, we will be kicking off a March of Dimes Project. We will also be having a dance for the Tree of Hope. Indiana FBLA will be renovating its state Web site, something to look forward to in June of this year. Also on the 2005 agenda is the 2005-2006 Chapter Summit, which will be sometime in the fall. Indiana is getting ready for a long road to success.

Arielle Wolf
Illinois FBLA State President

As the Illinois FBLA State Leadership Conference gets closer, members across the state are preparing for the conference. For the past couple month's members have been attending their respective area conferences. Illinois has seven areas and the seven area presidents have been working hard preparing members for an unforgettable experience. The area presidents are not the only ones busy with the coming of our state conference. The T-shirt design contest has begun and creative members throughout the state are working on a remarkable design. The T-shirt design that is selected will be placed on a T-shirt and sold at the State Leadership Conference in April. A raffle will also be held at the conference this year. Many exciting prizes will be raffled off; items include a DVD player among them. Overall, Illinois FBLA is traveling down the road to our success without any speed bumps and is looking forward to the State Leadership Conference in April.

Amber Fricke
Iowa FBLA State President

Iowa FBLA is on the road to success. With State Leadership Conference not until April, many local chapters are doing projects relating to the goals of FBLA such as March of Dimes fundraisers, tours, job shadowing, recruitment drives, and chapter pizza parties. Many members are working on achieving the Business Achievement Awards. The state officers and state committee are busy planning a terrific conference to meet all of the members' needs and guide them on their path to success. Iowa FBLA is helping students to develop the leadership, professional, and educational skills necessary to thrive in the business world.

Shyrah Perry
Missouri FBLA State President

Missouri's State Officer Project—Retain, Recruit, and Re-Energize—has been extremely successful so far this year. Our goal is to increase membership by 10 percent and rank 3rd in the nation. Currently our membership is on the rise at 12,742, which is a 12 percent increase from this time last year. Because of these efforts made by our hard working members, we now rank 2nd in the nation. (Final numbers are not in until next month.)

Missouri's 20 districts are getting ready for District Leadership Conferences from February 11 to March 9. Much anticipation is at hand for hard working FBLA members during this busy, but rewarding time. Our state officers will also be attending ACTE Legislative Day, February 2, to meet with legislators and tell them the benefits of Career and Technical Education and Future

Megan Myers
Ohio FBLA State President

Business Leaders of America.

We are proud of our local chapter's efforts in their community service projects. Several chapters are coming up with many inventive ideas to better our communities and state. We thank the chapters for their unmatched efforts.

Ohio FBLA has been busy preparing for our 58th annual State Leadership Conference in March. The state officer team has been working on securing donations from business corporations throughout the state. This money will be given away to competitors who take home first place in their event. We encourage winners to put this \$50 prize towards a trip to compete at the National Leadership Conference.

The state officers have also been communicating with the Ohio State Department of Education in hopes of their recognizing FBLA as a Career and Technical Student Organization within our state. Currently Ohio FBLA is not acknowledged or supported. We are hopeful that increased communication with the department and expanding their knowledge of FBLA programs, events, and the benefit it has to students will help secure this state support.

Ross Squires
Wisconsin FBLA State President

Over the last few months, Wisconsin FBLA has been keeping busy with all sorts of different things. We have participated in a number of different conferences. Of course, the NFLC in Chicago, where we had so many members participate! In addition, some of our members participated in the first ever all-Wisconsin CTSO Leadership Lab, and had the opportunity to interact with members from FFA, FCCLA, SkillsUSA, HOSA, and DECA! In addition to participating in the conferences, we finalized our two new community service projects, and have been working on introducing those to chapters.

The best news though, is we just finished our Regional Leadership Conferences. More than 3000 students from around the state participated at six different sites! For those students who managed to place in the top five in their events, it's on to the State Leadership Conference in April! Besides all the competing, we have six new regional vice presidents elected, and waiting to be sworn in. The biggest news story in Wisconsin FBLA though, is our new State Adviser—Denise Roseland, a former business teacher from Kettle-Moraine High School. We are excited to have her join our team, as we continue down the Road to Success!